



Press Release

U.S. ARMY JFK SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AND SCHOOL

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, FORT BRAGG, NC 28310
phone 910-396-9394/fax 910-396-8613

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PRESS RELEASE: Special Forces training exercise ‘Robin Sage’ kicks off 2007

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (USASOC News Service, February 6, 2007— Students attending the Special Forces Qualification Course (SFQC) here will conduct a two-week training exercise across a 15-county area in central North Carolina beginning February 9, officials at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (SWCS) announced today.

The exercise, called “Robin Sage,” will encompass the counties of Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davidson, Guilford, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Richmond, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly and Union and is conducted several times a year.

Scheduled to end February 23, the exercise has been coordinated with public safety officials throughout the affected area. Residents in the affected communities may hear blank gunfire and see occasional flares, neither of which poses any risk to persons or property. Residents who encounter a problem should contact local law enforcement officials, who will immediately contact exercise control officials.

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Conducted by the 1st Special Warfare Training Group here, Robin Sage is designed to provide realistic training in unconventional warfare tactics and techniques. It is the final training exercise for these students before graduating and assignment to one of the operational Special Forces groups.

Robin Sage has been conducted for more than 40 years with the help of both civilian authorities and the citizens of central North Carolina. To add to the realism of the exercise, auxiliary forces consisting of civilian volunteers throughout the state will act as role-players during the training. Participation by these auxiliary members is crucial to the success of the Special Forces training, and anecdotal evidence gathered from past trainees attests to the realism they add to the exercise.

The students conduct the unconventional warfare training scenario in the notional country of Pineland. Approximately 300 service members will support the exercise from units across the military to include Fort Bragg. These military members provide realistic opposing and guerrilla forces the students encounter in the country of Pineland.

Safety is the number-one priority for this exercise, and to ensure that a number of safety measures have been implemented into the exercise. Safety measures incorporated during this exercise include:

- Formal written notification is given to the chiefs of the law enforcement agencies in the affected counties, with a follow up visit from a unit representative.
- All civilian and non-student military participants are briefed on procedures to follow if there is contact with law enforcement officials.
- Personnel role-playing as Pineland law enforcement officers wear distinctive hats and armbands.

For Additional Information Contact:

MAJ Dave Connolly, (910) 396-8390 or connolld@soc.mil

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- Students are instructed and tested on the exercise's rules of engagement. This includes procedures to follow if there is contact with law enforcement personnel during the exercise.
- Students will only wear civilian clothes if the tactical situation warrants, as determined by the instructors and will wear a distinctive armband.

During hunting season, the cadre take additional measures to ensure the visibility and safety of all participants.

Officials at SWCS appreciate the help and consideration the citizens of North Carolina extend to the soldiers participating in the exercise and ask for their continued understanding of any inconveniences the training may cause. Questions concerning the exercise should be referred to MAJ David Connolly of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School Public Affairs Office at (910) 396-8390/9394.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Request editors print this release in their paper or broadcast on their station to provide the citizens of central North Carolina information concerning this important exercise.

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